

about Psycho-analysis ; much about " Homosexualität " ; there is an extremely amusing account of the legal position of hermaphrodites under the Weimar constitution ; and a great deal about various proposals for the reform of those paragraphs of the German penal code which are never referred to except by number. But of Eugenics proper there is practically nothing ; and what little there is, consists for the most part of well worn generalities and pious exhortations ; unless, indeed, we are meant to take as a serious contribution to Eugenics, a dissertation on the infidelity of eagles. It is to be hoped that the next International Congress " für Sexualreform auf sexualwissenschaftlicher Grundlage " will have the same chairman and some fresh lecturers on that aspect of the problem of sex, which is, in the long run, socially by far the most important.

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Wynne, Prof. Fred. *Ductless and Other Glands*. Allen & Unwin, London, 1923. pp. 127. 4s. 6d.

IN " Ductless and other Glands," Professor F. E. Wynne attempts to present in popular language the chief results obtained from clinical and experimental studies of internal secretions. On the whole the book ought to appeal to the lay reader. The author commences with a sound indictment of the sensation-loving press, and the advertisement of various preparations as cures for all sorts of ailments. The idea that "nerves" or "liver" is at the bottom of all disease, is also severely dealt with.

The functions of the different glands are well presented, but the claims of internal secretions are sometimes put too high—especially with regard to their inter-relations—and too often the ductless glands are lumped together and numerous pathological states attributed to the derangement of this inter-relation. The claim is even advanced that in internal secretions will be found the "Elixir of Life." The rejuvenation operation, by grafting "monkey gland," is shown to be wrong on physiological principles. Any benefit derived is entirely due to the psychological factor. The statement : "A man is as old as his arteries" is the surest proof of the nonsense of this farcical procedure. Although a man may feel younger, his arteries do not share in this rejuvenation. As a result of increased activity on the part of the man, the strain on the circulation may be too great, and consequently death may be accelerated.

The author falls into some errors; for instance, he claims that " internal secretions are purely hypothetical substances." On the contrary, adrenaline, insulin and thyroxin have been isolated and are well-known, and adrenaline is even manufactured commercially. Further, with regard to muscle contraction and gland activity, it is stated that " we are at the gate of a mystery." This is hardly true, for a considerable amount of work has been done in this connection. The active principle of thyroid is not an " iodised albuminoid," but thyroxin, a non protein substance ; also the thyroid is responsible for iodine, and not calcium metabolism, as stated.

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